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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/600,999	06/20/2003	William H. Robertson	CA7010223001	5787

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EXAMINER	
WHITMORE, STACY	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2825	

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
06/07/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/600,999	ROBERTSON ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Stacy A. Whitmore	2825	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *16 March 2007*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *54-96* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *54-96* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *6/20/2003* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

FINAL ACTION

1. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

2. Claims 54-96 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dieckman, D. et al., "DISCOE: distributed design and analysis to preserve intellectual property" in view of Stephens (US Patent 6,636,853) in view of Stephens (US Patent 6,636,853).

3. As for the claims 54-96, Dieckman discloses the invention substantially as claimed, including:

4. A method (computer program product and system comprising means for) of providing remotely located circuit design resources, the method comprising:
connecting a plurality (one or more) of user nodes to a portal over a distributed electronic network [pg. 58, section II, fig. 1 – showing user nodes to a distributed network which comprises portal for a connection – specific instances of DISCOE utilizing a portal are: remote vendor supplied computational platforms, a web based computational platforms; pg. 58- pg. 59, the use of a distributed, web-based CAD environment, online parts (IP) catalogs, and a component server all describe the system using at least a remote resources, servers, or other web-based interfaces to access the CAD environment. Applicant discloses a portal as being a portal site or server in a client server environment at least in the abstract of the specification];
connecting a plurality (one or more) of supplier nodes to the portal over the distributed electronic network [pg. 58, section II, fig. 1 – showing supplier nodes to a distributed network which comprises portal for a connection];
making available a plurality (one or more) of circuit design resources through the portal, at least one of the plurality (one or more) of circuit design resources being located in one of the plurality (one or more) of user and supplier nodes [pg. 58, section II, fig. 1 –

showing user and supplier nodes to a distributed network which comprises portal for a connection and resources located at both the user and supplier nodes];
receiving one or more requests from at least one of the (one or more) plurality of user nodes for access to one or more of the plurality of circuit design resources available through the portal and not located on the at least (one or more) user nodes [pg. 58, section II, fig. 1 – showing user and supplier nodes to a distributed network which comprises portal for a connection and resources located at both the user and supplier nodes, and pg. 59, Front-end design framework section showing users interact with and make requests for access to resources];
automatically responding to the one or more requests from the (one or more) user nodes [pg. 58, section II, fig. 1 – showing user and supplier nodes to a distributed network which comprises portal for a connection and resources located at both the user and supplier nodes, and pg. 59, Front-end design framework section showing users interact with and make requests for access to resources and shows the suppliers automatically respond]; and
maintaining profile data of one or more users or suppliers [pg. 59, user authentication which includes username and/or password to authenticate – Note that profile information, as indicated by the applicant's specification on pages 21-22, indicates that user profile information may be username and/or password information]
wherein the (one or more) of circuit design resources comprise component data, the component data being stored in one or more databases located on the portal and/or on at least one of the one or more user and supplier nodes [pg. 58, section II, fig. 1 – showing user and supplier nodes to a distributed network which comprises portal for a connection and resources located at both the user and supplier nodes, and pg. 59, Front-end design framework section showing users interact with and make requests for access to resources and shows the suppliers automatically respond, also showing component data]. .
wherein the component data comprises component data sheets, timing models, application notes, simulation models, and/or signal integrity models [pg. 58, section II, fig. 1 – showing user and supplier nodes to a distributed network which comprises portal

for a connection and resources located at both the user and supplier nodes, and pg. 59-60, Front-end design framework section showing users interact with and make requests for access to resources and shows the suppliers automatically respond, also showing data sheets, timing models (included in simulation for verification), application notes (information sharing), simulation models, and/or signal integrity models (also included in simulation and verification)].

wherein the (one or more) circuit design resources comprise a plurality of virtual circuit blocks, each of the (one or more) virtual component blocks being stored in one or more databases located on the portal and/or on the at least one or more of user and supplier nodes [pg. 58, IP contained in vendor libraries, pg. 59, intellectual property reuse, and intellectual property distribution].

wherein the (one or more) circuit design resources comprise a (one or more) electronic design automation tools [pg. 57, right hand side shows design activities being collaborative and design integration, pg. 58, section II, especially right hand side, "The ability to construct.....multi-organizational design activities...", pg. 59, design capture, simulation verification, modeling].

wherein the (one or more) circuit design resources comprise a ranked listing of suppliers of integrated circuit fabrication services [pg. 58, section II showing multiple vendors, libraries, pg. 59, left hand side showing multiple catalogs, placing information online for use, access to design entities].

wherein the (one or more) circuit design resources comprise information on expert design services [pg. 59, parts catalogs, structural and functional specifications, information sharing, IP are forms of expert design services].

In which the step of automatically responding to the one or more requests from the at least one or more user nodes comprises:

determining whether each of the requested one or more circuit design resources is located on the portal; acquiring each of the requested one or more circuit design resources not located on the portal from at least one of the one or more user and supplier nodes; and transmitting the requested one or more circuit design resources to the at least one or more user nodes [pg. 58, fig. 1, pg. 60, Distributed simulation/IP

preservation section showing that resources are found, acquired, and transmitted to at least one user node].

In which automatically responding to the one or more requests from the at least one or more user nodes comprises:

determining whether each of the requested one or more circuit design resources is located on the portal; and providing information to the at least one or more user nodes on how to access each of the requested one or more circuit design resources not located on the portal [pg. 58, fig. 1, pg. 60, Distributed simulation/IP preservation section showing that resources are found, acquired, and transmitted to at least one user node, pg. 59, Version Control showing information on how to access design resources].

wherein the information provided to the at least one user node comprises linking information to one or more of the plurality of user and supplier nodes where the one or more requested circuit design resources are located [pg. 58, figure 1 shows linking information].

In which automatically responding to the one or more requests from the at least one or more user nodes comprises:

determining whether each of the requested one or more circuit design resources are located on the portal; and sending information to the at least one or more user nodes on how to obtain each of the requested one or more circuit design resources not located on the portal [pg. 58, fig. 1, pg. 60, Distributed simulation/IP preservation section showing that resources are found, acquired, and transmitted to at least one user node, pg. 59, Version Control showing information on how to access design resources].

wherein the information sent to the at least one user node comprises a username and password [pg. 60, user authentication].

wherein automatically responding to the one or more requests from the at least one user node comprises:

determining whether each of the one or more requests from the at least one of the one or more user nodes can be fulfilled at the portal; and forwarding each of the one or more requests that cannot be fulfilled at the portal to one or more of the plurality of user and

supplier nodes [pg. 58, fig. 1, pg. 60, Distributed simulation/IP preservation section showing that resources are found, acquired, and transmitted to at least one user node].
maintaining prior usage information relating to the one or more requests received from the at least one user node at the portal [pg. 59, Version Control information and/or user authentication data].
ranking is done by the portal [pg. 59, the catalogs and/or remote components are controlled by the provider, therefore the provider's computer resource (server or remote resource controls the catalog];
maintaining profile data of one or more users or suppliers at the portal [pg. 60, user authentication; pg. 58, section II, fig. 1 – showing user nodes to a distributed network which comprises portal for a connection – specific instances of DISCOE utilizing a portal are: remote vendor supplied computational platforms, a web based computational platforms; pg. 58- pg. 59, the use of a distributed, web-based CAD environment, online parts (IP) catalogs, and a component server all describe the system using at least a remote resources, servers, or other web-based interfaces to access the CAD environment. Applicant discloses a portal as being a portal site or server in a client server environment at least in the abstract of the specification];
presenting a plurality of design resources to the one or more users [pg. 60, user authentication; pg. 58, section II, fig. 1 – showing user nodes to a distributed network which comprises portal for a connection – specific instances of DISCOE utilizing a portal are: remote vendor supplied computational platforms, a web based computational platforms; pg. 58- pg. 59, the use of a distributed, web-based CAD environment, online parts (IP) catalogs, and a component server all describe the system using at least a remote resources, servers, or other web-based interfaces to access the CAD environment. Applicant discloses a portal as being a portal site or server in a client server environment at least in the abstract of the specification];

Dieckman does not specifically disclose ranking and presenting the ranked plurality of circuit design resources to the one or more user nodes based upon a prior activity of a user.

Stephens discloses ranking and presenting a plurality of resources to one or more users based upon a prior activity of a user [col. 7, lines 45-67; col. 8, lines 1-9, 15-48: The cited portions of Stephens show that based upon at least a user selection or search, the returned information is ranked and presented to the user, this information, in column 8, is indicated to be any category of information from a data source].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Dieckman and Stephens because providing, presenting, and ranking circuit design information to a user based on user activity in Dieckman's collaborative design system that uses information (such as information related to IC parts or intellectual property) spread over a network with multiple design users and/or teams would provide useful information to users that need to use design information that is necessary and requires organization and relevancy for a collaborative design effort so that the efficiency, and coordination of design be kept correct.

5. Applicant's arguments filed March 16, 2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

6. In the remarks, applicant argues in substance:

A: Dieckman nor Stephens do not disclose a ranking the one or more integrated circuit design resources based upon a prior activity of a user.

B: Dieckman nor Stephens do not disclose a prior activity of a user on a portal.

7. Examiner respectfully thanks applicant for a complete response to the prior office action, including an understanding of the references as applied, and the amendment intended to overcome the references. However, examiner respectfully disagrees with applicant for the following reasons:

As to A: Dieckman in view of Stephens discloses ranking the one or more integrated circuit design resources based upon a prior activity of a user.

As cited above in the rejection:
[Dieckman does not specifically disclose ranking and presenting the ranked plurality of circuit design resources to the one or more user nodes based upon a prior activity of a user.

Stephens discloses ranking and presenting a plurality of resources to one or more users based upon a prior activity of a user [col. 7, lines 45-67; col. 8,.lines 1-9, 15-48: The cited portions of Stephens show that based upon at least a user selection or search, the returned information is ranked and presented to the user, this information, in column 8, is indicated to be any category of information from a data source].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Dieckman and Stephens because providing, presenting, and ranking circuit design information to a user based on user activity in Dieckman's collaborative design system that uses information (such as information related to IC parts or intellectual property) spread over a network with multiple design users and/or teams would provide useful information to users that need to use design information that is necessary and requires organization and relevancy for a collaborative design effort so that the efficiency, and coordination of design be kept correct].

Further:
In the remarks section of applicant's amendment, applicant discloses that "Stephens clusters and ranks the information in response to a search query based upon the user's input as well as the parameters used in the clustering algorithm."; and "Moreover, in Stephens, another information which may also contribute to the ranking / ordering of the information in response to a search query is the heuristics and parameters of the clustering algorithm.". In examiner's interpretation of both the reference(s) and of

applicant's remarks, ranking is based upon a prior user activity (at least users selection or search query), which is then presented to the user via a GUI or web browser.

As to B: The argument that Dieckman in view of Stephens is not relevant because the claimed limitation is not the same as that argued by applicant.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stacy A. Whitmore whose telephone number is (571) 272-1685. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, alternate Friday 6:30am - 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jack Chiang can be reached on (571) 272-7483. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Stacy A Whitmore/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2825

SAW
May 30, 2007